

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GABORO 00955 181806Z

65

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00

OMB-01 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 /059 W

----- 067936

O R 181530Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8131

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 0955

LAGOS FOR FAA NEWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, EAIR, BC

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: GABORONE AIRPORT

REF: A) STATE 120084, B) 75 GABORONE 1108

1. ON MAY 18, EMBOFF SPOKE WITH HARVEY DIPPER, DIRECTOR OF BOTSWANA CIVIL AVIATION FOR CURRENT READING ON POSSIBLE GABORONE AIRPORT. DIPPER SAID THAT CIVIL AVIATION HAD EXPECTED DECISION FROM GOB IN 1975 ON WHETHER TO BUILD NEW AIRPORT OR EXPAND EXISTING ONE (PARA 1, REF B). HOWEVER, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED NOT TO MAKE DECISION EITHER WAY. SEVERE FINANCIAL STRINGENCY HAS PREVENTED GOB FROM PROCEEDING.

2. CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO URGE THAT NEW AIRPORT BE BUILT. DIPPER SAID THAT ICAO UNIT WHICH WAS HERE IN JULY 1975 ALSO SUPPORTED NEW AIRPORT. SITE SURVEY, ORIGINALLY DONE IN 1969 BY SIR ALEXANDER GIBB, CONSULTING ENGINEERS, WAS UPDATED IN 1974 BY R.L. YELLAND AND ASSOCIATES OF RENTON, WASHINGTON.

3. DIPPER SAID THAT GOB LACKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO BUILD THE AIRPORT AND MAY BEGIN CANVASSING AID DONORS FOR THE MONEY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GABORO 00955 181806Z

EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER FIGURE RAND 3 MILLION FOR NEW AIRPORT

(PARA 1, REF B) STILL ACCURATE. DIPPER REPLIED THAT RAND 3 MILLION WAS LOW IN THE FIRST PLACE AND THAT CURRENT ESTIMATE IS RAND 8.5 MILLION (ABOUT DOLS 10 MILLION) FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARD AIRPORT. THIS FIGURE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY MINISTRY OF WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN 1967-81 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ALONG WITH RECOMMENDATION BY WORKS THAT AIRPORT BE BUILT.

4. MINISTRY OF WORKS AND CIVIAL AVIATION DEPARTMENT PLAN TO BUTTRESS THEIR ARGUMENTS WITH ICAO STUDY WHICH IS DUE TO COME OUT IN JULY. STUDY, FUNDED BY AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION, ASSESSES POTENTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CIVIL AVIATION IN 22 AFRICAN COUNTRIES. DIPPER SAYS THAT MAIN RECOMMENDATION FOR BOTSWANA WILL BE TO BUILD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN GABORONE.

THE GABORONE AIRPORT, CONSTRUCTED IN 1966 HAS A 5,000 FOOT RUNWAY AND IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING DC-3'S AND HAWKEY-SIDDLEY TYPE AIRCRAFT. PRESENT SURFACE CONDITIONS SUCH THAT PROLONGED USE BY C-130 AIRCRAFT WITH HEAVY LOADS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

5. CIVIL AVIATION CURRENTLY MAKING MINOR IMPROVEMENTS TO PRESENT GABORONE AIRPORT, INCLUDING RAND 61,000 BITUMEN SEAL ON RUNDWAY, RAND 100,000 ADDITION TO TERMINAL BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF 800 BY 140 FOOT PARKING APRON, IN DIPPER'S OPINION, FUNS FOR THESE IMPROVEMENT BECAME AVAILABLE ONLY BECAUSE OF TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER. PARKING APRON, IN PARTICULAR, NECESSARY FOR ACCOMODATING AIRCRAFT OF VISITNG HEADS OF STATE.

BOLEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, AIRPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAY 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976GABORO00955  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760192-0670  
**From:** GABORONE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760543/aaaabkky.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION COME  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 120084, 76 GABORONE 1108  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAJOR PROJECT: GABORONE AIRPORT  
**TAGS:** BENC, EAIR, BC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006